

GoodNewsNotes

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON OFFICE FOR PARISH LIFE

This Issue

Ash Wednesday Retreat	p. 2
I.S.L.I	p. 2
Tending to Self Workshop	p. 2
Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training	p. 3
LTP Virtual Workshops	p. 3
Creatively Reaching Out to Persons with Disabilities	p. 4
Rethinking Marriage Preparation	p. 4
Following the Nonviolent Jesus Workshops	p. 5
"Come and See" Vocation Retreat	p. 5
10 Ways to Involve the Whole Community in Extending a Spirit of Welcome	p. 6

PREPARING THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

The Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians is sponsoring a day workshop on "Preparing the Paschal Triduum" on Saturday, February 25, 2017 (please note the change in date) from 9:00AM to 2:00PM at Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis Street, Scranton.



Mass for the World Day of the Sick
Saturday, February 11,
at 12:10PM
Cathedral of Saint Peter

Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Mass
Sunday, February 19
at 10:00AM
Cathedral of Saint Peter

This workshop, led by Fr. Jack Lambert, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Plains, is designed for all liturgy committees, pastoral musicians, ministers of liturgical environment, priests and deacons and anyone else involved with preparing the celebration of the Paschal Triduum. There is no fee but a free will offering will be taken, and lunch will be provided. To register, please contact David Baloga, NPM Program Director, at 570-207-2213 or [register here](#) or online at the new NPM Scranton Chapter website at www.scrantonnpm.com.



WORD

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who are people of the WORD, preaching, teaching, evangelizing and cherishing the Gospel message throughout our entire lives."

Ash Wednesday Retreat

The Office for Parish Life will offer a Retreat on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton. The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m.



Sr. Chris Koellhoffer, I.H.M. will lead the retreat with the theme "Living with a Lenten Heart." Sister Chris is an author, presenter, and spiritual guide who engages in mobile spirituality ministry, offering retreats, presentations and programs to connect the soul of a group with the soul of the church and the world. Her worldview has been profoundly shaped by people on the margins, by the power

of story, and by the arts.

The retreat day will include Mass celebrated in St. Peter's Cathedral with distribution of ashes. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available prior to Mass.

The fee is \$30, which includes lunch. To register, call Mary Anne Malone at the Office for Parish Life, 570-207-2213, or e-mail Mary-Anne-Malone@dioceseofscranton.org.

NCYC

National Catholic Youth Conference 2017

NCYC 2017, attended by over 20,000 young people from all parts of the United States, will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 16-18, 2017. The theme is "Called/

Llamados." The Diocese of Scranton will send a delegation to NCYC by bus leaving November 15 and returning November 19. Is your parish "Called" to participate in this pilgrimage? Information packets will be sent out in February.

For immediate information, contact Mary Anne Malone by phone: (570) 207-2213, ext. 1100 or e-mail: mary-anne-malone@dioceseofscranton.org

Diocesan Certificate in Lay Ministry: 2017 Skills Workshop Series



"Tending to Self"

**February 11th from 9AM-4PM
at the Diocesan Pastoral Center,
330 Wyoming Ave, Scranton**

Lisa Rigau, RN, MS, sports and wellness nutritionist, will share the importance of self care for good ministry. She offers training in the practice of loving kindness and self-compassion through contemplative prayer, mindfulness, mindful eating and conversation. This workshop will involve teaching, discussion and trying out what you learn.

Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothing.

The cost of registration for each workshop is \$30 payable to the Diocese of Scranton. [Register online](http://www.dioceseofscranton.org) at www.dioceseofscranton.org

THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON PRESENTS

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

ISLI

FOR 9TH - 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

February 24-26, 2017
Camp Ladore
Waymart, Pa

FOR MORE INFO, OR TO SIGN UP, VISIT
DIOCESEOFSCRANTON.ORG
OR CALL (570)207-2213 EXT. 1100

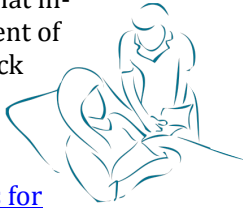
Registration for the International Student Leadership Institute (I.S.L.I.) is underway. The I.S.L.I. Retreat will be held at Camp Ladore in Waymart from Friday, February 24 – Sunday, February 26, 2017, and is open to all high school students who wish to prepare for leadership roles and improve their already existing decision-making and problem-solving skills through the teachings of the Catholic faith. To register go to www.dioceseofscranton.org. Spaces are limited, so register today!

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who WORSHIP our God and celebrate the Sacraments in union with the universal Church."

WORSHIP

World Day of the Sick

The Twenty-fifth World Day of the Sick will be celebrated on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Parishes around the diocese are encouraged to offer a Mass for the Sick that includes the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick either on February 11 or another convenient day near it. [Resources for World Day of the Sick](#) can be found on the diocesan website.



Rite of Election

The Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion will be celebrated by Bishop Bambara on Sunday, March 5 at 3:00PM. RCIA Coordinator Information and Enrollment forms are now available on the diocesan website under [Christian Initiation Resources](#). The deadline to register catechumens and candidates is Friday, February 10th. Parishes with new RCIA Coordinators are asked to contact Nancy Valtos at the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213, ext. 1119 and provide their new contact information.



LTP Virtual Workshops

Liturgy Training Publications is offering several different series of online workshops for cantors, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Communion, liturgists, teachers and catechists throughout the year. These virtual workshops are different than other webinars in that they invite participants to engage with the presenter and one another in providing feedback, reflections on the topic at hand, and discuss best practices and strategies for enhancing engagement in their ministries. Here are some of the upcoming virtual workshops:



- **The Liturgies of Holy Week: Increasing Attendance and Participation**—Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 1:00PM
- **Proclaiming the Seasons: Entering into the Lenten Scriptures**—February 23, 2017 at 7:30PM
- **Promoting the Intercultural Worship of Diverse Communities**—Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 1:00PM

The cost for each session is \$10. For more information or to register for any of these sessions or to see what other sessions are available throughout the year, please visit www.ltp.org/virtualworkshops.

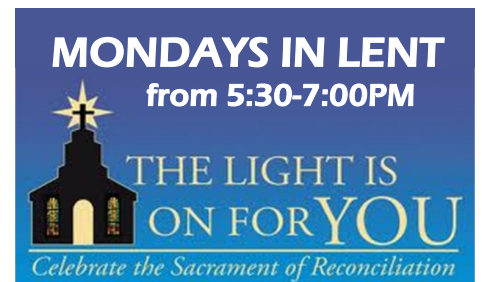
Extraordinary Minister of Communion Training

The Office for Parish Life will offer an all-day training session for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 9:00AM to 2:30PM at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 330 Wyoming Ave., Scranton.



This session will cover the theology of the Eucharist and the Mass, the history and spirituality of the ministry, as well as the particular functions of the Extraordinary Minister of Communion, and how to properly prepare and carry out this ministry.

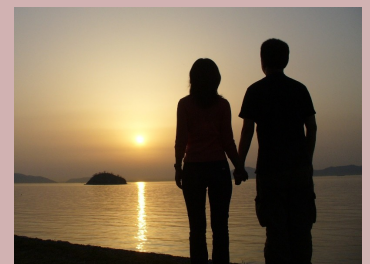
Candidates for the training should have the approval of his or her pastor/parish life coordinator. There is no fee for the training and lunch will be provided. To register, please fill out the [EMHC Training Registration Form](#) or call the Office for Parish Life at 570-207-2213 and be sure to include your mailing address, phone number and the name of your parish.



Young Adult Married Retreat

Diocese of Allentown, March 25, 2017

Treat your marriage to a special gift in the new year! You and your spouse are invited to Behold: Our Souls Proclaim the Greatness, a day of reflection for young adult married couples sponsored by the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry of the Diocese of Allentown. Delve into the meaning of marriage as a vocation and sacrament, learn how to grow as a couple through accountability and mutual support, and explore the benefits of engaging in a community of Catholic young adult married couples. The event will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at St. Francis Retreat House (3918 Chipman Rd., Easton). The cost is \$30 per couple and includes a light breakfast, lunch, and activities for the day. Childcare is available onsite (call office for details). To register or for more information, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/Behold.



Creatively Reaching out to Persons with Disabilities

What? An evening of networking and sharing of ideas/resources

Who should attend? DREs, pastors, catechists, buildings-and-grounds committee members and anyone interested in finding ways to better minister to and include parishioners with physical or mental disabilities

Presenters: Bernadette Rudolph will facilitate networking and sharing of ideas/resources.

Rev. Dick Hockman, CSC, will speak about the spiritual needs/abilities of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and introduce the SPRED program. Fr. Dick has a professional background and long history in special education and assists the Diocese of Scranton in parish-based SPRED programs.

When and Where?

Each session is 6:30-8:30PM. All locations are wheel-chair accessible.

- **Feb. 13 at St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish, Pocono Pines**
- **Feb. 20 at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Castellano Center, Williamsport**
- **Feb. 21 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Scranton**
- **Feb. 27 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes-Barre**

Please contact Jennifer at oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org or 570-207-2213 to register.



Able to Include

Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Mass

Sunday, February 19 at 10:00AM, Cathedral of St. Peter, Scranton

This is a celebration of the many gifts those with developmental or intellectual disabilities bring to the Church and the community. They are indeed full members of the Body of Christ! Bishop Bambara will be the principal celebrant. Anyone with ID/DD and their families and friends are welcome to attend. No reservations are needed.

Rethinking Marriage Preparation

Do you ever wonder if your marriage preparation program is as effective as it could be?

Authors Diana Macalintal and Nick Wagner suggest that we need to shift from simply preparing engaged couples for marriage and instead invite them into a discipleship which will sustain them long after the wedding day. Macalintal and Wagner have developed a way to use the RCIA model for marriage preparation. The process connects the couple into the parish community as well as evangelizes everyone.

Sounds intriguing but what would it look like? Bernadette Rudolph invites you to join a regional reading group to read Macalintal and Wagner's book, *Joined by the Church, Sealed by a Blessing*, and discuss how its ideas might be adapted for your parish. She can organize and facilitate the group or you can do so on



your own. You will need to purchase your own copy of the book. Dates and locations of the reading groups will be arranged at the convenience of group members. Please [click here](#) to register for a reading group.

Would You Like to Offer an Evening/Afternoon of Reflection?

Bernadette Rudolph, MA, MS, Director for Family and Community Development, is available to present a 2-3 hour retreat on the following:

An Introduction to Prayer – what is prayer about as well as an experience of various prayer styles

Living Your Strengths – claiming the unique gifts of each person and recognizing that everyone's gifts are needed to truly be the Body of Christ

Marriage as a Vocation: How Spouses Help Each Other Become Holier – If a vocation is a path to God and marriage is a vocation, spouses walk with each other to God. What does that mean?

Keeping the Doors of Mercy Open – God was merciful long before the Year of Mercy and will continue to be, long after it has ended. We are called to do the same. Explore how we can live lives of mercy.

Hospitality: A Ministry for Everyone – Reflect on how God welcomes humans throughout the Bible, how Jesus models hospitality and calls us to welcome others. See how this simple element can transform parish life, if we all answer the call.

Other topics are also possible. These retreats can be extended up to a full day, if you wish. Contact Bernadette to discuss your ideas! (ext. 1104 or Bernadette-Rudolph@dioceseofscranton.org)

"I CALL us to be servant leaders who engage in SERVICE to our neighbors near and far and who work for justice and stewardship to hasten the Reign of God."

SERVICE



Following the Nonviolent Jesus

The Office for Parish Life will offer a three-part series of workshops entitled, "Following the Nonviolent Jesus" based on Pope Francis' World Day of Peace message on nonviolence. Richard DeBona, Director for Service and Social Concerns will offer the presentations along with prayer and discussion. Topics in-

clude the "Just War" theory, the Church's support of conscientious objectors, nonviolent action and more. These workshops will take place at the following locations:

- **Wed., March 8 at 7:00PM--** St. John the Evangelist Parish, 15 East Church St., Susquehanna
- **Wed., March 15 at 7:00PM—** St. Lawrence Parish, 380 Franklin St., Great Bend
- **Wed., March 22 at 7:00PM—** St. Martin of Tours, State Rt. 92 & 492, Jackson

To register for any of all of these sessions or if you would be interested in having this presentation offered in your parish, please contact Richard DeBona at 570-207-2213, ext. 1130 or at Richard-DeBona@dioceseofscranton.org. For more information, please check out the [Nonviolence flyer](#).

Resources in Response to Executive Order on Refugees and Migrants

The following resources are available for further understanding of the Church's response to the Executive Order regarding refugees and immigrants.

- [Statement Regarding Executive Order on Refugees and Migrants](#) -- by Bishop Bambera
- ["It's immigrants who have made America great"](#) – by Cardinal Cupich of Chicago

You can take action on behalf of our sisters and brothers by visiting these two sites:

- The [Justice for Immigrants web page](#) produced by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- The [Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States](#) website.

"Come and See" Vocation Retreat

How are you answering the call to 'leave a mark?'

This retreat is designed to help men aged 18+ to understand God's call to diocesan priesthood through prayer, discussion and presentation. The retreat will be held on Friday, February 24, 2017 beginning at 7:00PM through Saturday, February 25, 2017 until 7:00PM. Participants are welcome to stay through Sunday lunch. Presentations will include:

- Practical steps for discerning a vocation to Diocesan Priesthood
- Seminary life, academics, spiritual life, and pastoral ministry
- Vocation stories from seminarians and priests

There will also be free time to read, rest, exercise and/or engage in informal conversations. Please RSVP by contacting Fr. Don Williams at 570-207-1452 or at vocations@dioceseofscranton.org by February 19.



Team Training

There is still time for your parish to participate in the small group process – if you plan to bring a team to any of these training dates, please call Alejandra Marroquin 570-207-2213.

- February 9—Most Holy Trinity Parish, Cresco from 6:00 to 9:00pm
- February 16th—Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish, Brodheadsville from 6:00 to 9:00pm
- February 26—St. John Newman, Scranton from 2:00 to 6:00PM (following the 12:30PM Mass)

10 Ways to “involve the whole community in extending a spirit of welcome”



Editor's Note: The [2017 Office for Parish Life Calendar](#) is available either by contacting the Office for copies, or [downloading from the Diocesan website](#). Each month focuses on one of the consensus goal areas surfacing in parish pastoral plans across the Diocese. For each month of our *Good News Notes* this year, we will also include a column like the one here – corresponding to the goal area for each month on the calendar.

1. Have a welcome and info booth at every weekend Mass – give something away each weekend. Decide, as a parish, what do you want guests to your parish to be telling people about their visit later that day? Make it happen!
2. Call and train people for the Ministry of Greeter – not only for Mass but for all parish events – this is an essential gift and ministry in the community. See OPL publication: [Hospitality: The Doorway to Evangelization](#)
3. Invite someone who has never been to your parish to come for a weekend, then share their observations and experiences about what made them feel excluded or included.
4. Plan a quarterly Welcome Brunch for newly registered parishioners – make sure there are roles for many current parishioners to host, tell their parish story, invite the new members into action, and provide an information packed Member Booklet.
5. Create a “special ops” team of floaters – greeters who interact in different circles of the parish, attend different Mass times, sit in different pews every time – equip them to notice and reach out to people on the margins, and to notice how the parish can be more inclusive.
6. Bring a parish project team to the February sessions on Ministering to Persons with Disabilities – and learn the many simple ways to be more accommodating.
7. Create and train a phone calling ministry team, to contact and visit with every parish household within a reasonable timeframe and then in an ongoing manner – just to connect, not to ask for donations or help – might include a specific invitation to an upcoming event, but no pressure.
8. At every parish event, build in comfortable ways for people to meet, converse, affirm each other and learn something positive about how the parish is serving the larger community – build parish pride and ownership.
9. Gather a group to participate in the VLCFF Course entitled “Pastoral Approach to Culture” as an opportunity to more fully embrace the culturally diverse population within and around your parish.
10. Be creative about involving “seasonal parishioners” – they are often eager to get involved quickly because of their limited stay, and this is a vital segment of many parish communities.

OPL TEAM MEMBERS

Diocesan Secretary for Parish Life: **Catherine Jantsch Butel**
 Director for WORD and Lifelong Faith Formation: **Mary Anne Malone**
 Consultant for Youth and Campus Ministry: **Fred Mercadante**
 Director for WORSHIP: **David Baloga**
 Coordinator for RCIA: **Fr. Bob Simon**
 Director for SERVICE and Social Concerns: **Richard DeBona**
 Coordinator for Diocesan Missions and Director for Pontifical Missions: **Deacon Ed Kelly**
 Coordinator for Mission Education: **Miriam Heverline**
 Coordinator for Pilgrimages: **Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic**
 Director for Family and COMMUNITY Development: **Bernadette Rudolph**
 Coordinator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations: **Msgr. Vincent Grimalia**
 Coordinator for V Encuentro: **Alejandra Marroquin**
 Coordinator for Lay Ministry Formation: **Kitty Scanlan**
 Coordinator for Pastoral Council Development: **Ann Marie Cawley**
 Events Coordinator, Diocesan Pastoral Center: **Sue Burke**
 Receptionist: **Jennifer Andres** Data Manager/Registrar: **Nancy Valtos**
 Administrative Assistant: **Diane Franklin** Office Manager: **Marge Kosmahl**



Office for Parish Life
 330 Wyoming Avenue
 Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503
 phone: 570-207-2213
 fax: 570-207-2204

email: oplgeneral@dioceseofscranton.org
 website: www.dioceseofscranton.org

